



Habitat Partnership Committee Connection

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**JUNE 2013
ISSUE 11**



From your Outgoing Statewide HPC Chairman Commissioner John W. Harris

To Arizona's sportsmen and women, wildlife conservation organizations, and wildlife and habitat conservation constituents: With my recent appointment as the Arizona Game and Fish Commission Chair, this will be my last address to you as the Chairman of the Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee (HPC). Since my first State HPC meeting in February 2010, these last 3 years have seen many accomplishments through our collective efforts to enhance our diverse habitats and wildlife populations within Arizona. Under the leadership of incoming HPC Chairman Commissioner Davis, I am confident that you will continue to build upon the great work of the HPC program that has taken place over last 20 years, while fostering the diverse partnerships that are the cornerstone of its success. I wish you all success as the program moves forward, and thank you all for your tireless efforts and hard work conserving Arizona's wildlife resources.



From your Incoming Statewide HPC Chairman Commissioner Kurt R. Davis

While I may know many of you from my engagement in the Sportsmen's Constituent Group, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those that I have yet to meet. I am an avid hunter and angler, and a founding partner at FirstStrategic Communications and Public Affairs. At FirstStrategic, I specialize in public policy development for nonprofit clients, issues relating to rural Arizona, and government relations. I received my Bachelor of Science degree from Northern Arizona University in 1984, and have held several different positions within state government and the private sector prior to serving as an Arizona Game and Fish Commissioner. While some Commissioners may choose to remain on a single committee throughout their tenure, I wanted to broaden my understanding of Commission-led committees. I chose the Habitat Partnership Committee so I could engage in the various habitat and game management issues that the Department is coordinating through this program.

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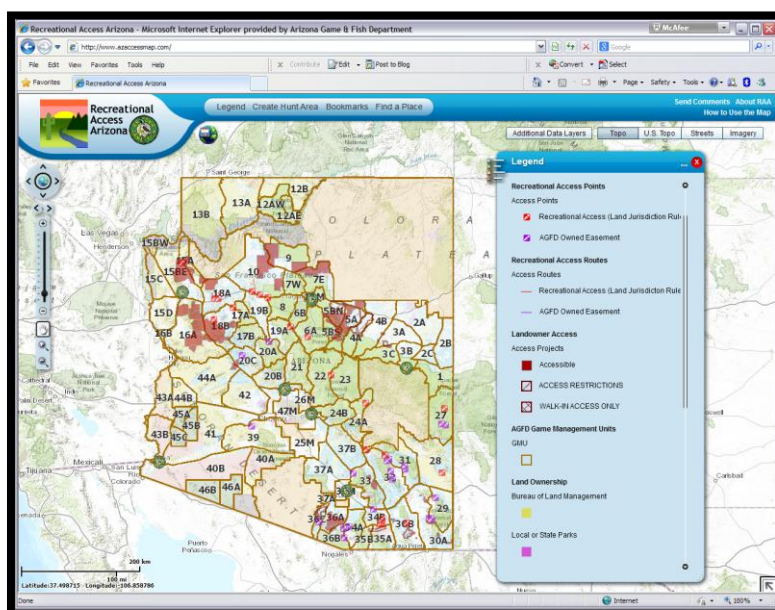
I am excited to be able to Chair the Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee, and invite all interested parties to attend the next State HPC meeting which will be held on **Saturday, July 27, 2013** at the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Region I Office in Pinetop, Arizona. The meeting agenda is available on the [HPC website](#), and you can also find the draft meeting minutes from the February 2013 State HPC meeting. Thank you all for your continued support of the HPC program, and I look forward to continuing our work to benefit Arizona's wildlife resources and their habitats.

Coordinator's Corner Reuben Terán

Habitat Partnership Committee Coordinator

My first column written in June 2011 HPC newsletter referenced the onset of "change" with me coming on board as the new HPC Coordinator, and once again we find the HPC Program going through another change as we welcome Commissioner Davis as the new HPC State Chairman. I would like to thank Commissioner Harris for his time and leadership during his tenure as the HPC Chairman, and look forward to working with Commissioner Davis as we all continue to build on successes of the HPC Program. A change in the Department's Game Management Program is also taking place, as Mr. Brian Wakeling (Game Branch Chief) has recently been appointed as the Wildlife Management Division Coordinator. In this capacity he will coordinate multiple aspects within the Division, and continue to facilitate the development of the Comprehensive Game Management Plan. There have also been some changes within the Local HPCs, and I would like to introduce Mr. Bill Masters as the new Chairman of the Springerville-Alpine HPC. In addition I am very pleased to announce the re-engagement of the Kingman HPC with their first meeting held on June 14, 2013.

*For those interested in submitting proposals for habitat enhancement or wildlife management projects, please note deadline has been moved to **September 3, 2013** due to the Labor Day holiday. Please be sure to visit the [HPC website](#) for current proposal forms and other project planning resources.*

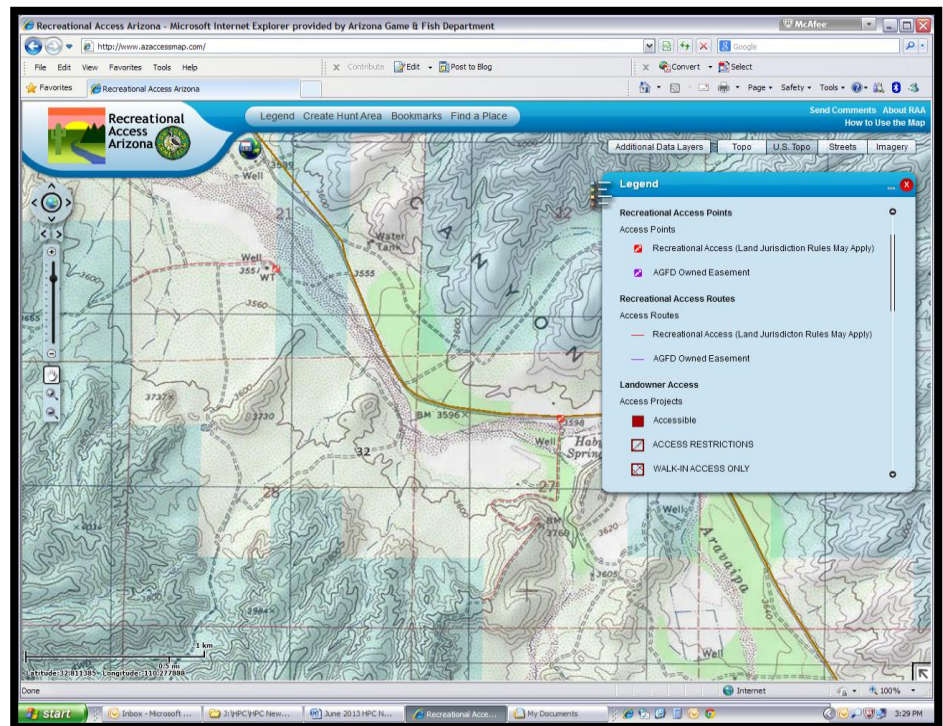


Recreational Access Arizona (RRA) Application

Through the diligent work of the Department's Landowner Relations Program, the Department unveiled another data resource for outdoor recreationists. The RRA is web-based, and was created to provide the public information about the Department's activities in securing recreational access on and across private lands in Arizona. For those familiar with the Department's HabiMap™ Arizona application, the look and functionality is similar in most respects. Major features in the application include a Menu Tool Bar, Legend, Bookmarks, Find a Place, and Map Views in streets, aerial imagery, and topographic maps. One other key feature is the "Create a Hunt Area" tool that allows the user to draw in an

area in which to hunt or recreate. Application users can add or remove various Geographic Information System (GIS) layers such as wildlife water developments and right-of-way access roads, and toggle between street, topographic, or aerial base maps. Users can also save and share electronic maps or screen views, as well as their created recreation area. Please note that the application is intended as a guide only, and information presented does not preempt any rules or regulations for existing land use. Recreational users must obey all posted signs on all lands.

The issues of recreational access for both sportmen and the general public are very prevalent, but the hope is that tools such as this can better facilitate the responsible uses and privilege of accessing public and private lands that would otherwise be inaccessible. The tool can be found online at <http://www.azaccessmap.com/>.



COMPLETED PROJECTS FUNDED DURING THE 2010 FUNDING CYCLE

10-102	Heber (#568) and Lone Pine (#414) Catchments	10-409	Jane Hunts-Mohave Tinaja
10-103	Ohaco Ranch-High Point and Ellsworth Wells Fuel	10-410	Bighorn Sheep Survey of the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge
10-201	Buck Springs Allotment Habitat Improvement	10-508	Pinaleno Bear-Proof Food Lockers
10-204	Leonard Point 3 Water Redevelopment	10-511	96 Hills Wildlife Waters Phase 4
10-207	Fix, Dave's NE, Rock and Ebert Tank Renovations	10-516	Mt. Fagan Catchment Redevelopment
10-208	Wolf Hole #3 Catchment Redevelopment	10-517	Silverbell Pipeline Project Phase 2
10-209	Wolf Hole #2 Catchment Redevelopment	10-518	Sawmill Canyon Water Development
10-211	Pick Point Catchment Redevelopment	10-605	Mineral Mountains Catchment Redevelopment
10-214	Region 2 Wildlife Drinker Maintenance and Operations	10-606	Connor Catchment Development
10-215	Raymond Wildlife Area Water Improvement	10-702	Statewide Bighorn Sheep Survey Request
10-301	Rincon Tank Water Development #1187	10-703	Body Condition analysis for Unit 12A in Winter 2011
10-303	Mud Tank Wash Grassland Enhancement	10-704	Geospatial Analysis of Temporal Trends of Nuisance Black Bears
10-304	Boquillas Ranch - 16 Pipeline	10-706	Elk Stewardship Program
10-401	Water Development #738	10-707	Statewide Maintenance of Bighorn Sheep Waters
10-404	Cipriano Tank	10-708	Javelina Vaccine
10-405	Water Development #950	10-709	Bighorn Sheep Translocation from the Navajo Nation to Unit 18B

BIG GAME MANAGEMENT UPDATE**Water Hauling for Wildlife**

Ed Jarke - Wildlife Statewide Supervisor, Development Branch

The Arizona Game and Fish Department and many other dedicated wildlife advocates haul water to wildlife water developments (also known as catchments, guzzlers, trick tanks) when their water levels become critically low. This usually takes place from late April through September, depending on several variables. These variables can include abundance of (or lack of) winter and summer rains, air temperatures, wind, evaporation rates, forage conditions, development storage capacity, ability to collect rainfall, and wildlife use. From the Department's perspective, the Wildlife Managers drive the water hauling process by monitoring existing water developments and requesting the delivery of water to those developments they deem critical for wildlife management.

Many of the projects brought before the Local Habitat Partnership Committees are requests for water developments in need of renovation. Each year there are few new developments funded, which is based on the direction of the AGFD Commission back in the early 2000s. This direction was a result of an internal team report that emphasized the need to fix existing infrastructure already out there before building new developments. There was an increase in water redevelopments in the mid 2000s using Special Big Game License Tag (SBGLT) funding, monies through Senate Bill 1441, and Wildlife Conservation Funds. Since then, the senate bill money has been expended and the Wildlife Conservation Fund dollars have been allocated toward other priorities, leaving only federal funds for water development enhancements, along with available SBGLT funds. Funding contributions from external sportsman's groups towards specific redevelopment projects have played also a vital funding role.



Where has all of this activity left the Department's Wildlife Water Developments?

Believe it or not, the Department's Development Branch (Branch) is hauling less water than it was back in the early 2000s. For example, in 2002 (an extremely dry year), the Branch hauled about 1.4 million gallons of water during the busy season. In 2012, the Branch hauled roughly 200,000 gallons of water during the same time. Although several factors can explain this decrease, one of the primary drivers has to be the result of increased redevelopment of those critical facilities that were inefficient and under capacity. That's not to say that water hauling needs or redevelopments are no longer necessary, because there are still many developments on the landscape that require attention. In an arid state such as Arizona, meeting the water requirements of wildlife in the desert environment wouldn't be possible without the cooperation and support from the HPC process of prioritizing water developments and water hauling needs, and cooperatively allocating the available funding to get the work done. So we soldier on!



In the Spotlight:



Project Title: Rincon Tank Water Development #1187	
Project Proponent: Arizona Game and Fish Department	
Region and Game Management Unit: Region 3 / GMU 18A	
Local Habitat Partnership Committee: Kingman HPC	
Special Big Game License Tag Funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Elk Tag Funds 	\$26,144
Cost Share Funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau of Land Management - Kingman District Office • Arizona Game and Fish Department - Development Crew 	\$28,000
Total Project Costs:	\$54,144

The idea of developing a new wildlife water in Truxton Valley, Mohave County began fifteen years ago, early in spring 1998. Wildlife Managers and Region 3 personnel began talks with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the livestock permittee to develop some type of water system to provide water for both livestock and wildlife. Truxton Valley receives less than 10 inches of rain per year, with the only available water often being livestock tanks, which often dry up by mid-summer.

Rincon catchment was initially visualized as a small rock dam built to capture water that would be piped to a storage tank and enclosed wildlife drinker. The overflow would then be available for the livestock permittee to pipe a half mile away from the wildlife enclosure to a livestock trough. However, the initial scope of the project failed to identify available cooperative funding between the Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department), BLM, and the livestock permittee, and additional challenges were created by having the project service both livestock and wildlife.

In 1999 the scope of the project changed to pumping water from a local well to a livestock trough, and then on to Rincon Tank which would also include a wildlife drinker and fenced enclosure. This alternative was submitted in 2001 as a wildlife habitat enhancement proposal, and the Arizona Mule Deer Association (now the Arizona Deer Association) approved what was called the Rincon Pipeline Project. However, in 2002 the Crozier Ranch and the BLM grazing lease were sold. Although the project was primarily on BLM land sections, the new owners were not interested in participating in the Rincon Pipeline Project. Therefore, the project was ultimately cancelled and did not go forward.



In 2009, the Rincon Tank Water Development proposal was revisited and redefined as a wildlife water catchment that included a new water collection design. In May 2010, a site visit conducted by the Department, BLM, and Arizona Deer Association lead to the decision that the Rincon Tank Wildlife Water Development would be constructed in Unit 18A in the Cottonwood Mountains, 10 miles southeast of Truxton Arizona, on BLM property within the Crozier allotment. The site is on the south side of a limestone bedrock plateau, on the edge of great basin conifer woodlands, within semi-desert grassland, prime habitat for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn.



In the fall of 2010 the Rincon Tank Water Development project was submitted through the HPC process, and fully funded through elk Special Big Game License Tag funds. BLM had previously completed archaeological and environmental clearances on the site, and construction started in December 2011 with the development of two new 5,700 gallon tanks, a walk-in drinker, catchment apron, and exclosure fence. The pipe rail fence was finished in February 2012, fully completing the project. The BLM, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Department employees assisted Department's Development crew with on site labor and construction.

The completed project has created a permanent water source for a variety of wildlife species including dove, quail, predators, furbearers, and big game such as elk, mule deer, and pronghorn. The catchment was full and holding water the entire 2012 season, providing a much needed water source throughout the year. Game camera pictures taken from February 2012 through July 2012 highlight some of the various wildlife species using the water development.

Special thanks goes out to the Arizona Deer Association, Arizona Elk Society, Bureau of Land Management, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Department staff, and everyone who assisted and worked so hard and diligently throughout the years to see this project through to completion.

Project Funding Update**Ruth Gregory****Game Program Administrative Coordinator**

The 2013 funding coordination meeting between Arizona Game and Fish Department staff and our wildlife conservation organization (WCO) funding partners took place on January 12, 2013. Although the proposal review cycle is over, things don't slow down as this time of year is spent on setting up the project funding index codes, developing project collection agreements, compiling status updates on previously funded projects, soliciting applications for next year's Special Big Game License Tags, and gearing up for the next HPC funding cycle. Through coordination with our WCO funding partners, the following projects were approved for funding at the February 9, 2013 State HPC meeting.

Project Title	Local HPC	Antelope Tag	Bighorn Sheep Tag	Black Bear Tag	Buffalo Tag	Elk Tag	Javelina Tag	Mountain Lion Tag	Mule Deer Tag	Turkey Tag	Whitetail Deer Tag	Total Funding
Rock Climb AZGFD #1115	Forage Resource Study Group	3,000		6,000		22,908			11,000			\$42,908
Raymond Wildlife Area Irrigation and Water System Improvement	Forage Resource Study Group				30,000							\$30,000
13BN Bighorn Sheep Survey and Capture - 2013	Fredonia		25,000									\$25,000
Wolf Hole #1 WLC Redevelopment 2013	Fredonia								20,280			\$20,280
Mountain Lion #8051 Water Catchment Redevelopment	Fredonia								46,604			\$46,604
Turkey Tracks #9029 Water Catchment Redevelopment	Fredonia								46,604			\$46,604
Music Mountain #1 Wildlife Water Catchment Redevelopment	Kingman								13,150			\$13,150
Powerline Wildlife Water Catchment Redevelopment	Kingman								13,150			\$13,150
Mountain Shadow Ranch Water Project	Kingman							14,824	53,242			\$68,066
Westside Kaibab Mule Deer Project 2013	None								\$5,500			\$5,500

Project Title	Local HPC	Antelope Tag	Bighorn Sheep Tag	Black Bear Tag	Buffalo Tag	Elk Tag	Javelina Tag	Mountain Lion Tag	Mule Deer Tag	Turkey Tag	Whitetail Deer Tag	Total Funding
GMU 10 Predator Density Reduction	None	9,250	10,000						\$9,250			\$28,500
Region IV Emergency Helicopter Maintenance and Water Hauling of Bighorn Sheep Water Developments	None		35,000									\$35,000
Statewide Bighorn Sheep Surveys for Fall 2013	None		50,000									\$50,000
Statewide Emergency Helicopter Maintenance and Water Hauling of Bighorn Sheep Water Developments	None		15,000									\$15,000
Unit 37B (Mineral Mountains) GPS Collar Monthly Airtime/Data Transfer Service	Payson Natural Resource Committee		6,270									\$6,270
Payson Campgrounds Bear-Proof Lockers	Payson Natural Resource Committee			7,000								\$7,000
Sycamore Mesa Juniper Thinning (BLM) / Agua Fria Antelope Habitat Improvement Project (PNF): Treatment Units - BLM10 and BLM11 and PNF4	Payson Natural Resource Committee	5,000							20,000			\$25,000
Twin Buttes Tank	Payson Natural Resource Committee								34,000			\$34,000
Reservation Boundary Wildlife Waters Restoration	Payson Natural Resource Committee					2,197						\$2,197

Project Title	Local HPC	Antelope Tag	Bighorn Sheep Tag	Black Bear Tag	Buffalo Tag	Elk Tag	Javelina Tag	Mountain Lion Tag	Mule Deer Tag	Turkey Tag	Whitetail Deer Tag	Total Funding
Catchment #265 Redevelopment	Payson Natural Resource Committee											\$0
Mingus Mountain #2 (#400) & Mingus Mountain #11 (#459) Water Redevelopments	Prescott					25,400						\$25,400
Black Hills Prescribed Fire	Prescott								50,000			\$50,000
Yavapai Ranch Drinker Project	Prescott	4,600				10,000			11,400			\$26,000
L O Ranch Earthen Stock Tank Maintenance	Prescott					4,000			4,000			\$8,000
Racetrack Windmill	Prescott								5,000			\$5,000
Powerline Tank and Meadow Restoration and Fencing	Prescott									3,725		\$3,725
Turtle Mountain Wildlife Enhancement Project	Safford		10,000						9,812		9,812	\$29,624
Black Ranch - Bonita Grasslands Restoration Phase 3	Safford	15,000							9,000			\$24,000
Pinaleno Ecosystem Restoration Project (PERP) - Year 2	Safford									15,450	19,550	\$35,000
Unit 3C, 4A, and 4B Dirt Tank Maintenance 2013	Show Low					23,500			7,500			\$31,000
Helicopter Time for Pronghorn Capture GMU 19A-B	Sierra Vista - Douglas	10,000										\$10,000
IV Bar Water Improvement Project	Sierra Vista - Douglas	5,400							2,000			\$7,400
Harris Ranch Solar Well Retrofit	Sierra Vista - Douglas								5,600			\$5,600

[illegible]

[illegible]

Project Title	Local HPC	Antelope Tag	Bighorn Sheep Tag	Black Bear Tag	Buffalo Tag	Elk Tag	Javelina Tag	Mountain Lion Tag	Mule Deer Tag	Turkey Tag	Whitetail Deer Tag	Total Funding
Effect of Fall Harvest on Turkey Populations in Arizona 2013	Williams - Flagstaff									5,400		\$5,400
Mastication-Based Restoration of Grasslands on the Williams Ranger District, Kaibab National Forest	Williams - Flagstaff	2,000				48,000						\$50,000
Dog Knobs Water Catchment Repair	Williams-Flagstaff					10,000						\$10,000
Unit 7 and Unit 9 Water Catchment Repair Program	Williams - Flagstaff					7,500						\$7,500
Ohaco Ranch High Point and Ellsworth Fuel 2013	Winslow					8,300						\$8,300
Powerline and Ryan Catchments	Winslow					37,503						\$37,503
		Antelope Tag	Bighorn Sheep Tag	Black Bear Tag	Buffalo Tag	Elk Tag	Javelina Tag	Mountain Lion Tag	Mule Deer Tag	Turkey Tag	Whitetail Deer Tag	
TOTALS		\$104,250	\$357,911	\$26,125	\$30,000	\$302,058	\$9,323	\$14,824	\$476,642	\$28,575	\$48,022	\$1,397,730

**GRAND TOTAL OF PROJECTS FUNDED DURING THE
2012-2013 CYCLE = \$1,397,730**

Thank you, partners in conservation!

2013-2014 Special Big Game License Tag Sales Update:

Current sale figures are **\$1,501,850** with the Special Turkey Tag raffle & Arizona Big Game Super Raffle yet to take place!

Meet your local HPC Chairpersons as of June 2013

<i>HPC</i>	<i>Chairperson</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>AGFD Contact</i>	<i>Email</i>
Forage Resource Study Group	Stephen Williams	swilliams@land.az.gov	Larry Phoenix	lphoenix@azgfd.gov
Fredonia HPC	<i>The Fredonia HPC is currently inactive.</i>			
Kingman HPC	Vacant		Velma Holt-Buhr	vholt-buhr@azgfd.gov
Payson Natural Resources Committee	Vacant		David Daniels	ddaniels@azgfd.gov
Prescott HPC	Randy Lamb Gail Steiger	ranman53@aol.com gailsteiger@msn.com	Darren Tucker	dtucker@azgfd.gov
Show Low HPC	Vacant		Bob Birkeland	bbirkeland@azgfd.gov
Safford HPC	Daniel Ward	wardsbuilders@q.com	Duane Aubuchon	daubuchon@azgfd.gov
Sierra Vista-Douglas HPC	John Millican	j2dbmill@msn.com	Brad Fulk	bfulk@azgfd.gov
Southwest Arizona HPC	Jean Wilson	jeanrenegade@gmail.com	Mike Sumner	msumner@azgfd.gov
Springerville-Alpine HPC	Bill Masters	billy.masters@empire-cat.com	Michael Godwin	mgodwin@azgfd.gov
Tucson HPC	Brian Dolan	bfd@dakotacom.net	Joe Sacco	jsacco@azgfd.gov
Williams-Flagstaff HPC	Tom Mackin	tmmackin@q.com	Larry Phoenix	lphoenix@azgfd.gov
Winslow HPC	Vacant		Bob Birkeland	bbirkeland@azgfd.gov

Got questions about the HPC Program?

Contact:

Reuben Terán, HPC Coordinator at 623-236-7350 or by email at rteran@azgfd.gov

Ruth Gregory, Game Program Administrative Coordinator at 623-236-7349 or by email at rgregory@azgfd.gov

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Meetings & Announcements

- **Sierra Vista-Douglas HPC Meeting - July 16, 2013**
U.S. Forest Service - Sierra Vista Ranger District Office
5990 S. Highway 92
Hereford, AZ 85615
6:00 PM
- **State HPC Meeting - July 27, 2013**
Arizona Game and Fish Department - Pinetop Regional Office
2878 E. White Mountain Blvd.
Pinetop, AZ 85935
9:00 AM
- **2014 Spring Hunt Recommendations Open Houses**
Arizona Game and Fish Department - Kingman Regional Office
5325 N. Stockton Hill Road
Kingman, AZ 86409
Wednesday, July 24, 2013
3-5 PM

Arizona Game and Fish Department - Pinetop Regional Office
2878 E. White Mountain Blvd.
Pinetop, AZ 85935
Tuesday, July 30, 2013
3-5 PM

Arizona Game and Fish Department - Yuma Regional Office
9140 E. 28th St.
Yuma, AZ 85365
Tuesday, July 30, 2013
3-5 PM

Arizona Game and Fish Department - Tucson Regional Office
555 N. Greasewood Road
Tucson, AZ 85745
Tuesday, July 30, 2013
3-5 PM

Arizona Game and Fish Department - Flagstaff Regional Office
3500 S. Lake Mary Road
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
Wednesday, July 31, 2013
3-5 PM

Arizona Game and Fish Department - Mesa Regional Office
7200 E. University Drive
Mesa, AZ 85207
Wednesday, July 31, 2013
3-5 PM
- **Project Proposal Deadline - September 3, 2013**